

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

A complete listing of the claims is as follows:

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Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

a sole;

an outer upper comprising an impervious portion; and

at least one outer reinforcing element, distinct of the sole, assembled to the upper

with cement at least in the impervious portion of the upper upper:

the at least one outer reinforcing element comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart  
tightening flaps;

each of the tightening flaps having a free end.

Claim 2. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein the at least one reinforcing element comprises a heel reinforcement.

Claim 3. (*Canceled*)

Claim 4. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 2, 3, wherein the heel reinforcement is extended on each side of the outer upper by the lateral tightening flaps.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 2, wherein the heel reinforcement comprises a vertical extension forming a collar for tightening a lower leg of a wearer of the boot.

Claim 6. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

a sole;

an outer upper comprising an impervious portion; and

at least one outer reinforcing element including a heel reinforcement having a vertical extension forming a collar for tightening a lower leg of a wearer of the boot;

said outer reinforcing element being assembled to the upper with cement at least in the impervious portion of the upper, the outer reinforcing element comprising lateral tightening flaps, each of the flaps having a free end;

the collar and the lateral tightening flaps comprising the only means for tightening the upper.

Claim 7. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 1, further comprising at least one outer seam in said impervious portion of said upper, ~~each of~~ said at least one outer reinforcing element covering and being cemented to said at least one outer seam, ~~seam being covered by a cemented reinforcing element~~.

Claim 8. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 7, wherein the outer reinforcing element comprises a heel reinforcement, said heel reinforcement covering covers seams of a heel stiffener of the upper.

Claim 9. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 8, wherein the ~~outer~~ heel reinforcement is affixed on at least one portion of the outer sole.

Claim 10. (*Canceled*)

Claim 11. (*Original*) A boot according to claim 1, further comprising a detachable liner provided with a sole made of a shock-absorbing material.

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 5, wherein ~~the reinforcing element comprises lateral tightening flaps, and wherein~~ the collar and the lateral tightening flaps comprise the only means for tightening the upper.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 1, ~~wherein the reinforcing element comprises lateral tightening flaps, wherein~~ the lateral tightening flaps extend rearwardly on each side of the outer upper to a heel reinforcement, and wherein the heel reinforcement comprises a vertical extension forming a collar for tightening a lower leg of a wearer of the boot.

Claim 14. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 13, wherein the collar and the lateral tightening flaps comprise the only means for tightening the upper.

Claim 15. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein said impervious portion of said outer upper extends downwardly to said sole.

Claim 16. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 1, wherein at least said impervious portion of said outer upper comprises a coating for effecting imperviousness.

Claim 17. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 7, wherein said outer reinforcing element is assembled to said upper only by application of said cement.

Claim 18. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 7, wherein at least said impervious portion of said outer upper comprises a coating for effecting imperviousness.

Claim 19. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 7, wherein all outer stitched seams in said impervious portion of said upper including said at least one outer seam, are covered by said at least one outer reinforcing element.

Claim 20. (*Currently Amended*) A boot according to claim 7, wherein ~~said outer reinforcing element comprises a pair of laterally spaced apart tightening flaps~~, said tightening flaps have having respective forward ends spaced from a front end of the boot.

Claim 21. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 11, wherein at least said impervious portion of said outer upper comprises a coating for effecting imperviousness.

Claim 22. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

a sole;

an outer upper comprising an impervious portion, said outer upper comprising at least one outer stitched seam;

said outer upper comprising added parts covering at least said one outer stitched seam, including at least one outer reinforcing element assembled to the upper with cement at least in the impervious portion of the ~~upper upper~~;

said outer reinforcing element comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart tightening flaps:

each of said tightening flaps having a free upper end; and

each of said tightening flaps having a forward end spaced from a front end of the boot.

Claim 23. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 22, wherein at least said impervious portion of said outer upper comprises a coating for effecting imperviousness.

Claim 24. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 22, wherein all outer stitched seams in said impervious portion of said upper, including said at least one outer seam, are covered by said added parts.

Claim 25. (*Canceled*)

Claim 26. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 22, further comprising a detachable liner positioned within said outer upper, said liner being provided with a sole.

Claim 27. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 22, wherein said impervious portion of said outer upper extends downwardly to said sole.

Claim 28. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 22, wherein said outer reinforcing element is assembled to said upper only by application of said cement.

Claim 29. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

a sole;

an outer upper comprising plurality of parts, said outer upper including an impervious portion;

securely assembling together said plurality of parts of said outer upper only by application of cement, including securely assembling at least one outer reinforcing element to said upper with cement at least in said impervious portion of said ~~upper~~ upper;

said outer reinforcing element comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart tightening flaps:

each of said tightening flaps having a free upper end; and

each of said tightening flaps having a forward end spaced from a front end of the boot.

Claim 30. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 29, wherein, above said sole, the boot includes no stitched seams.

Claim 31. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 29, wherein said cement is located in a cementing zone extending from said sole to substantially mid-height of said outer upper.

Claim 32. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 29, wherein at least said impervious portion of said outer upper comprises a coating for effecting imperviousness.

Claim 33. (*Canceled*)

Claim 34. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 29, further comprising a detachable liner positioned within said outer upper, said liner being provided with a sole.

Claim 35. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

a sole;

an outer upper comprising an impervious portion, said impervious portion comprising at least one outer stitched seam;

at least one outer reinforcing element assembled to said outer upper with cement at least in said impervious portion of the upper, each of said at least one outer stitched seam being covered by a cemented reinforcing element;

a tightening mechanism to tighten the boot around a foot of a wearer;

said reinforcing element comprising laterally spaced apart tightening flaps, each of said tightening flaps having a free end, said tightening flaps comprising a part of said tightening mechanism, said tightening mechanism comprising the only means for adjustably tightening the upper around a foot of a wearer.

Claim 36. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 35, wherein all outer stitched seams in said impervious portion of said upper, including said at least one outer seam, are covered by said added parts.

Claim 37. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 35, wherein said impervious portion of said outer upper extends downwardly to said sole.

Claim 38. (*Currently Amended*) A boot comprising:

an external sole, an outer upper, and an outer reinforcing element;  
said sole comprising a lowermost external wear surface;  
said outer upper comprising an impervious portion; and  
said outer reinforcing element being assembled to the upper with cement at least in the impervious portion of the upper;

said outer reinforcing element comprising a pair of laterally spaced apart tightening flaps, each of said tightening flaps having a free end, said tightening flaps having respective forward ends spaced from a front end of the boot.

Claim 39. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 38, wherein said tightening flaps are laterally spaced apart above an instep area of the boot.

Claim 40. (*Previously Presented*) A boot according to claim 39, wherein said tightening flaps are part of a tightening mechanism, said tightening mechanism further comprising a lacing connecting together said spaced apart tightening flaps.

**Claim 41. (Previously Presented)** A boot according to claim 38, wherein said cement extends from said sole to an upper cementing limit substantially mid-height of said outer upper.

**Claim 42. (Previously Presented)** A boot according to claim 38, further comprising a detachable liner positioned within said outer upper, said liner being provided with a sole.

**Claim 43. (Previously Presented)** A boot according to claim 38, wherein said external sole, said outer upper, and said outer reinforcing element constitute three distinct parts of the boot.